

# Committee Daily Bulletin

17<sup>th</sup> Congress  
Third Regular Session

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Banks and Financial Intermediaries	Substitute Bill to HBs 492 & 3975	Rep. Turabin-Hataman and Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo	Providing for the regulation and organization of Islamic banks	The Committee, chaired by Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone, approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 492 and 3975. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.
	Substitute Bill to HB 5629	Rep. Villafuerte	Enabling banks to expand service delivery channels through cash agents and providing guidelines therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 5629. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.  Rep. Henry Oaminal (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Misamis Occidental), chair of the technical working group (TWG) that deliberated on the bill, conveyed that the bill seeks to enable banks to expand their service to reach and serve even clients living in far-flung areas.
	HB 439	Rep. Bravo (A.)	Providing for the creation of the Cooperative Banking Act	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to study the bill further.  Rep. Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte Jr. (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Camarines Sur) was designated as the TWG Chair.  Representatives from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) expressed their support for the bill.  The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers for the TWG's reference in its deliberations on the bill.
	HB 3742	Rep. Marcoleta	Increasing the total indemnity claim for death or serious physical injury to any passenger or third party without the necessity of proving fault or negligence, amending for the purpose Section 378 of the Insurance Code of the Philippines	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to study and deliberate further on the bill.  Rep. Oaminal was designated as the TWG Chair.  Land Transportation Office (LTO) Assistant Secretary Edgar Galvante objects to increasing the "no-fault" indemnity claim to P50,000.00 as this would increase the compulsory third party liability (CTPL) insurance premium.  Under Section 378 of the Insurance Code of the Philippines, the "no-fault" indemnity claim provides that any claim for death or serious physical injury to any passenger or third party

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Banks and Financial Intermediaries</p>				<p>shall be paid without the necessity of proving fault or negligence of any kind, provided that the total indemnity to a person does not exceed P5,000.00.</p> <p>Commissioner Dennis Funa of the Insurance Commission (IC) expressed support for the P50,000.00 increase since the total CTPL coverage is P100,000.00. He also informed the Committee that the “no-fault” indemnity claim was already adjusted to P15,000 in 2006.</p> <p>Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association (PIRA) representative Cleto Obello disclosed that the association is working on increasing the CTPL coverage from P100,000 to P200,000 but with a corresponding increase in the premium amount.</p> <p>The LTO, IC and PIRA were requested to come up with an affordable but comprehensive transport insurance scheme for all types of land vehicles.</p>
<p>Dangerous Drugs</p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 289, 587, 1868, 3406, 3616, 3627, 3733 &amp; 4151</p>	<p>Reps. Romero, Bataoil, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Barbers, Acop, Pineda, Bagatsing, and Alejano</p>	<p>Amending RA 4200, or the law prohibiting and penalizing wiretapping and other related violations of the privacy of communication (by authorizing wiretapping in cases involving violations of RA 9165, otherwise known as the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, among other amendments)</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Robert "Ace" Barbers (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Surigao del Norte), approved the substitute bill.</p>
	<p><i>Motu Proprio</i> Investigation</p>		<p>Investigation into the alleged smuggling of P6.8 billion worth of shabu unearthed by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA)</p>	<p>The Committee agreed to wait for the result of the ongoing investigation being conducted by the PDEA and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) on the estimated P6.8 billion worth of shabu that allegedly slipped past the BOC before deciding whether or not to continue with the House inquiry.</p> <p>PDEA Deputy Director General Ruel Lasala reported that the four cylindrical magnetic lifters recently found in a warehouse in General Mariano Alvarez in Cavite were similar to the two cylindrical magnetic lifters seized at the Manila International Container Port (MICP) which had packs of shabu concealed inside. Lasala said traces of illegal drugs were detected in the four lifting equipment with the help of the sniffer dogs although no shabu was actually found in the said warehouse.</p> <p>On August 7, the BOC seized an abandoned shipment at the MICP containing two cylindrical magnetic lifters, which upon inspection, yielded about 500 kilograms of shabu, with a street value of P4.3 billion, hidden inside.</p> <p>Refuting Lasala’s allegations, Customs Commissioner Isidro Lapeña asserted that the magnetic lifters could not have contained shabu because they tested negative for this illegal substance.</p>

Continuation... Dangerous Drugs				<p>Based on BOC's statements, Rep. Horacio Suansing Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Sultan Kudarat) asked PDEA to recant the earlier pronouncement of Director General Aaron Aquino that the four cylindrical magnetic lifters alleged to have been used to smuggle about 1,000 kilograms or a ton of shabu worth billions of pesos had allegedly slipped past the BOC.</p> <p>However, Lasala stood by the claim of the PDEA Director, citing circumstantial and documentary evidences PDEA has gathered. He requested that the names of the persons involved remain confidential so as not to jeopardize PDEA's ongoing investigation.</p> <p>Rep. Romero "Miro" Quimbo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Marikina City) opined that PDEA's assertions might have basis because the cylindrical magnetic lifters found at the MICP and in Cavite were clearly similar.</p> <p>Majority of the Members agreed that the BOC should be given additional budget for the implementation of its modernization and computerization programs in order to effectively stop the smuggling of contrabands into the country.</p>
Good Government and Public Accountability	HR 1505	Rep. Vergara	Investigation into the apparent corruption and irregularities in the imposition, collection, and distribution of taxes and fees on the quarrying operations in the Province of Nueva Ecija and other provinces in the Philippines	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Surigao del Sur), approved the Committee Report on HR 1505 subject to style and amendment.
	HR 1551	Rep. Acharon	Investigation into the alleged payments by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) of road right-of-way (RROW) claimants in General Santos City using spurious or fabricated land titles	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 1551 in its next meeting.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Pimentel recounted that in the Committee's previous hearing, witness Roberto Catapang Jr. revealed the involvement of government officials in the alleged payments amounting to P8.7 billion to fake owners of properties in General Santos City that were subject of RROW acquisitions. He added that a certain Wilma Mamburam was the mastermind of this fraudulent right-of-way claims. Rep. Pimentel asked the resource persons to comment on this issue as well as to apprise the Committee of their respective findings concerning the case.</p> <p>Former DPWH Secretary Rogelio Singson denied his involvement in the incident, explaining that there was no legal basis for the accusation hurled against him and that he relied on the regularity of the documents submitted to his office during his term. Nevertheless, Singson disclosed that when he noticed that the payments made to the fake owners of titles in General Santos City were way above the usual payments for RROW acquisitions, he immediately ordered that the payments be stopped. However, the writ</p>

<p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability</p>				<p>of mandamus issued by the court in General Santos City compelled the DPWH to pay the remaining balance to the claimants.</p> <p>Land Registration Authority (LRA) Director for Legal Affairs Rhandolfo Amansec reported that based on the LRA's investigation on the matter, it found that more than 100 land titles involved in the RROW acquisition in General Santos City were spurious. He assured the Committee that the LRA has already identified the government employees and officials who were involved in the scam and promised to provide the Committee a copy of its findings.</p> <p>Department of Justice (DOJ) Assistant Secretary Sergio Yap II said that the DOJ has already filed cases of plunder and violations of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act (RA 3019) against government employees and officials found to be involved in the alleged scam. The cases are now with the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB).</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Ferdinand Hernandez (2<sup>nd</sup> District, South Cotabato) vouched for the integrity of former Secretary Singson. Rep. Hernandez also said that the sheer number of spurious land titles may reveal that the scam is a work of an organized syndicate which seems to have infiltrated the ranks of the bureaucracy. He advised the DOJ to look into similar cases outside General Santos City saying that he believes the same syndicate might be operating in the surrounding areas.</p> <p>The Committee Secretariat was instructed to invite the judge who issued the writ of mandamus and the DPWH employees who represented the Department in the case. Likewise, the DPWH was asked to submit to the Committee all its releases for RROW from the years 2010-2017.</p> <p>The Committee will issue a <i>subpoena</i> to Mamburam and a certain Nelson Ti who is allegedly her accomplice to comment on their alleged involvement in the scam.</p>
<p>Government Reorganization jt. w/ Basic Education and Culture</p>	<p>HB 2628</p>	<p>Rep. Atienza</p>	<p>Strengthening the cultural and sports training of the Filipino youth by re-organizing the Department of Education (DepEd) into the Department of Education, Culture, and Sports (DECS), appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN), of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Ramon "Red" Durano VI (5<sup>th</sup> District, Cebu), Chair of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture, will deliberate further on the bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Jose Atienza Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY), author of HB 2628, proposes to re-integrate culture and sports into the mandate of the DepEd and rename it as the Department of Education, Culture, and Sports (DECS) as it was called before. According to Rep. Atienza, creating another department is not the solution.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go expressed support for Rep. Atienza's bill and recommended that an Undersecretary be assigned to handle culture.</p>
	<p>HBs 4884, 6113 &amp; 6260</p>	<p>Reps. Sy-Alvarado, Escudero, and De Venecia</p>	<p>Establishing the Department of Culture and the Arts, appropriating funds therefor</p>	

<p>Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Basic Education and Culture</p>				<p>On the other hand, Rep. Evelina Escudero (1<sup>st</sup> District, Sorsogon), author of HB 6113, maintained the need to create a separate Department of Culture (DOC) which will be mandated to develop, manage and implement policy and strategic decisions in the promotion of Filipino culture.</p> <p>Similarly, Rep. Christopher V.P. de Venecia (4<sup>th</sup> District, Pangasinan), author of HB 6260, said that the envisioned Department shall comprise bureaus with different focus areas promoting and preserving Filipino cultural identity and heritage. He added that culture and heritage not only play an important role in the social transformation of an individual but also in the economic advancement of a country, adding that the Philippines' creative industries contribute about 5% to the total gross domestic product (GDP) of the country.</p> <p>Bernan Joseph Corpuz, division chief of Plan/Policy Formulation and Programing Division, National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), presented the agency's position favoring the creation of a separate Department of Culture. He emphasized the need to have a lead government body that will coordinate efforts at promoting national identity which is essential in providing the nation with a strong sense of direction and order of priorities.</p> <p>Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) Director General Anna Katarina Rodriguez also favors the creation of a DOC saying that right now, it is the NCCA which acts as the policy making and coordinating body on the preservation, development and promotion of culture and the arts. However, she said that the different implementing agencies are attached to various Departments which makes coordination and synergy in program implementation difficult and weak.</p> <p>Like its usual stand on creating additional layers in the bureaucracy, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) opposes the creation of another department to handle culture and the arts. DBM's Systems and Productivity Improvement Bureau Director Clotilde Drapete said that strengthening the mandate of the NCCA is a better alternative, stressing that creating a new department will require at least P1 billion budget while reorganizing and creating a bureau will require only about P18 million for personnel services.</p> <p>The DBM was requested to submit a budget estimate for the creation of a department versus the creation of a bureau in an existing department.</p> <p>Representatives from DepEd will be invited to attend the Committee's next meeting.</p>
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Local Government	HBs 1322, 1600, 6748, 6749, 6750 & 6762	Reps. Pimentel, Baguilat, Barzaga, and Sacdalan	Creating barangays in the provinces of Surigao del Sur, Ifugao, Cavite and North Cotabato	The Committee, presided by Rep. Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Zamboanga Sibugay), approved the six bills.
	HB 5343	Rep. Baguilat	Establishing the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera (ARC)	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to study HB 5343 further.</p> <p>Ifugao Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr., the main author of the bill, and co-authors Baguio City Rep. Mark Go and Benguet Rep. Ronald Cosalan believe that regional autonomy is the key to solving underdevelopment and poverty in the Cordilleras.</p> <p>Reps. Palma, Manuel Zubiri (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Bukidnon), and Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1<sup>st</sup> District, Lanao del Norte), expressed support for the bill.</p> <p>Also expressing their support were Apayao Governor Elias Bulut, Mountain Province Governor Bonifacio Lacwasan Jr., Baguio City Mayor Mauricio Domogan and other officials from the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), as well as the representatives from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).</p> <p>Rep. Zubiri suggested that the TWG should come up with a timeline for its discussion of issues and proposed amendments.</p> <p>The Committee requested the local officials to submit their reports on the public hearings conducted in the CAR and their proposed amendments for the TWG's reference in its deliberations on the bill.</p>
	HB 6033	Rep. Salo	Entitling barangay officials to fixed salaries and other benefits being enjoyed by regular government employees	The Committee agreed to consolidate the five bills with the other 81 bills also seeking additional benefits for barangay officials, that are currently undergoing deliberations in the TWG.
	HB 6240	Rep. Benitez	Providing all barangay officials, including barangay tanods, members of the Lupon ng Tagapamayapa, barangay health workers and barangay day care workers, a lump sum retirement pay equivalent to one year honorarium, amending for the purpose Section 393 of RA 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991	Two of the bills' authors, Reps. Zubiri and Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN), underscored that barangay officials and workers should be given the same benefits accorded to regular government employees being at the forefront of public service at the grassroots level.
	HB 7247	Rep. Sy-Alvarado	Increasing the honorarium and Christmas bonus of barangay officials, including barangay tanods and members of the Lupon ng Tagapamayapa and granting a lump sum gratuity pay equivalent to P100,000.00 and other non-monetary benefits, amending for the purpose Section 393 of RA 7160, as amended	

Continuation... Local Government	HBs 7424 & 7514	Rep. Zubiri	Providing compensation for barangay officials, amending Section 393 of RA 7160, and appropriating funds therefor	
Local Government jt. w/ Government Enterprises and Privatization	HB 7236	Rep. Garcia (J.E.)	Creating the Metro Bataan Development Authority (MBDA), defining its powers and functions, and providing funds therefor	<p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, for the Committee on Local Government, and Rep. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan (1<sup>st</sup> District, North Cotabato), Chair of the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization, approved HB 7236 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Joint Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Bataan), author of the proposed measure, advocated the creation of the MBDA in order to have a government entity in Bataan that is endowed with corporate powers and responsible for planning and implementing basic area-wide services, without diminution of the autonomy of the local government units.</p>
Ways and Means	Substitute Bill to HBs 3655, 3832, 4011, 4133, 4412 & 7105	Rep. Romero, Minority Leader Suarez, Rep. Limkaichong, Deputy Speaker Singson, Reps. Gatchalian, and Alvarez (P.)	Enhancing revenue administration and collection by granting amnesty on all unpaid impositions levied by government for taxable year 2017 and prior years	<p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, will deliberate further on the substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>Commenting on Section 18 (Entitlement of Tax Amnesty), Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. (1<sup>st</sup> District, Surigao del Sur) opined that it would be better if the amnesty tax due should be fixed to 10% or 20% of the basic tax regardless of the nature of delinquency. This, he said, will better serve the purpose of the proposed law which is to encourage more delinquent taxpayers to settle their unpaid taxes.</p> <p>Expressing her opposition to the proposal to grant amnesty on real property and local business taxes, League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) Policy Officer Angelina Sanchez stressed that local government units (LGUs) are vested with the power to impose taxes, fees or charges to generate their own revenues, pursuant to Section 132 (Local Taxing Authority) of the Local Government Code.</p> <p>However, Rep. Arthur Defensor Jr. (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Iloilo) averred that although such tax power has already been delegated to LGUs, it does not preclude Congress to amend the said Code, if necessary.</p> <p>Resource persons present during the meeting were requested to submit to the Committee their position papers on the bill. They were likewise requested to provide the following, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) - details on the more than 32 million taxpayers and data on unpaid estate taxes;</li> <li>• Bureau of Customs (BOC) - list of existing customs bonded warehouses</li> </ul>

Continuation... Ways and Means				<p>and the corresponding number which are actually exporting, status of its accounts receivables, and data on its seized auctionable items; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Finance (DOF) - revenue projections on the different tax ratios on delinquent accounts to be included in the tax amnesty program under Sec. 18 of the proposed measure.</li> </ul>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Health (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 3310, 4630, 5810, 7122, 7153 & 7426	Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, Reps. Nieto, Lanete, Belaro, Yap (V.), and Vargas	Establishing the Philippine eHealth System and Services in the delivery of health services with the use of information and communications technology (ICT) in the Philippines, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan M.D. (4<sup>th</sup> District, Quezon), approved the substitute bill subject to style and amendment. The substitute bill will be reported out to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>The TWG thoroughly discussed all the provisions of the substitute bill. Among the agreements reached during the meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private sector participation shall be tapped in the implementation of the proposed law.</li> <li>• The definition of the term "information and communications technology (ICT)" will be patterned after the ICT's definition in the law creating the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).</li> <li>• The budget for researches on eHealth should not be more than 5% of the funds of the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and the DICT.</li> <li>• The National Privacy Commission (NPC) and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) will be among the agencies that will develop a "citizen registry."</li> </ul> <p>The resource persons present were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill.</p>